GRAZING MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT
CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

OVERSEED PERENNIAL WARM SEASON GRASS PASTURES WITH WINTER ANNUAL GRASSES AND LEGUMES

WHAT:
To prolong the grazing season over seed warm season grass pastures (i.e. bermudagrass, dallisgrass, crabgrass, johnsongrass, not Native warm season grassses) with winter annual grasses (i.e. cereal grains and ryegrass) and legumes (i.e. white clover, crimson clover).

WHEN:

Species	Seeding Rate/Acre	Seeding Date with herbicide burn down*	Seeding Date without herbicide burn down
Annual Ryegrass	30 lbs.	Aug. 15 to Oct. 15	Oct 1 to Oct 15
Winter Annuals	3 bu.	Sept. 1 to Oct 15	Oct 1 to Oct. 15
White clover	2 lbs	Aug 15 to Oct 15	Oct 1 to Oct 15
Crimson clover	20 lbs	Aug 1 to Oct 15	Oct 1 to Oct 15
* Always follow label when using herbicides			

Do not graze till winter annuals are 5" or taller. Manage pastures according to growth, grazing pressure, and grazing heights. Practice rotational grazing when winter annuals and legumes are present. To reduce the threat of bloat, do not turn hungry animals in on wet forage. Consider feeding a form of bloat guard.

WHERE:
Enhancement applies to all warm season pasture fields <u>other than</u> native grass pasture (i.e. switchgrass, big bluestem, eastern gamagrass).

HOW MUCH:
This enhancement applies to all introduced warm season pasture fields. The enhancement rate is $20.00 per acre of warm season grass over seeded in winter annuals.

HOW:
Prescribed grazing will increase forage production, persistence and quality. This practice will improve soil, water, animal, plant and air resources. The practice has the potential to increase economic returns by decreasing inputs and increasing outputs. Increased management is required.

- **GRASS HEIGHT:**
  Maximum intake of forage is achieved when the forage height is 5 to 8 inches tall. Forages taller than the maximum grazing height (generally greater than 8 - 10 inches) lose palatability and digestibility and are more prone to damage from trampling.

RECOMMENDED GRAZING HEIGHT:

Kind of Forage	Ending Grazing Height[1.)]	Start Grazing Height[2.)]
Winter annual grasses or crimson clover (ie oats, wheat, and rye)	**3 - 4"**	**5 - 8"**
Annual Ryegrass or white clover	**2 - 3"**	**5 - 8"**

1.) Ending Grazing Height (when 80% of plants are desired ht.) —the forage height to rotate off.
2.) Start Grazing Height (when 80% of plants are desired ht.) —the maximum forage height at which grazing should begin (forages above this height should be considered for hay).

Forage heights less than recommended are acceptable during late winter (February-March) just before green up and may even encourage additional legumes. During the grazing season no more than 20% of any one field should be grazed closer than ending height listed. Also no more than 20% of the total forage system should be grazed closer than the recommended height (i.e. 1 out of 5 fields grazed close).

- **DETERMINING WHEN TO ROTATE:**
  Use the look down, look ahead, look back, and look at the weather technique.
  1. **LOOK DOWN;** is the forage height within the recommended height? When forage is at or is approaching minimum grazing height, consider moving to the next field. It is better to leave too much rather than too little.

  2. **LOOK AHEAD;** is the next paddock ready to graze or getting beyond grazing height? When forage in the next field is at the maximum grazing height or above consider; speeding up the rotation or cutting for hay and skipping to the next field.

  3. **LOOK BACK;** are paddocks previously grazed re-growing adequately? When re-growth is inadequate either leave higher residue (higher stubble height) or rest longer.

LOOK AT THE WEATHER; is frost, rain or drought anticipated? When frost is predicted, avoid grazing johnsongrass due to prussic acid poisoning. When rain is predicted forage growth will be increasing. When grazing wet natured ground move livestock off before rain to prevent pugging. Pugging causes:

- poor drainage – the soil will stay softer and wetter making it more susceptible to further pugging
- poor plant growth – a reduction in pasture yield
- greater fertilizer requirements
- more topsoil and contaminants to be transported by runoff to waterways

- **SUPPLEMENTING LIVESTOCK GRAZING WINTER ANNUALS:** When grazing high quality winter annuals, limit the length of grazing or provide supplemental feed such as high quality hay, soybean hulls or corn. This will slow down the rate of passage through the livestock digestive system to provide the maximum benefit of the winter annuals.